of Commerce has drawn up a comprehensive plan for promotion of farm exports that will substantially increase our present low share of world trade.

(iv) The Government will soon unveil a National Rural Cooperative Policy and enact the long-pending Multi-State Cooperative Act.

(v) In line with the recommendations of the National Task Force on Information Technology, the Government has decided to promote Information Technology in agriculture and agro-business in a big way. The government will constitute a high-level Task force on Food and Agro-Industries management Policy, headed by Agriculture Minister Shri Som Pal, it will comprise representatives from the States, agriculture universities and R&D centres, prominent farmers and businessmen in the sector. The Task Force will submit an action plan for examination and adoption by the Government within the next three months.

(vi) In response to the demands of the State Governments, Prime Minister advised the Government of Maharashtra should prepare a scheme for helping the farmers affected by natural calamities so that Central Government can examine the scheme and consider providing necessary help to the State Government.

कार्यक्रमों का प्रसारण

582. **प्रो॰ राम गोपाल यादव:**
श्री रमाशंकर कौशिक:

(क) क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या दूरदर्शन ने स्वतन्त्रता आन्दोलन एवं पिछले पचास वर्षों के दौरान हुई प्रगति पर कार्यक्रम दिखाने हेतु विभिन्न निर्माताओं के साथ कोई अनुबंध किया था:

(ख) यदि हां, तो सम्बन्धित निर्माताओं के नाम तथा उनसे सम्बन्धित कार्यक्रमों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) उक्त कार्यक्रमों पर दूरदर्शन द्वारा कितनी धनराशि खर्च की गई तथा इस पर जनता एवं सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया हुई तथा इन कार्यक्रमों को कितनी सफलता मिली?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार नकवी): (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Legislation on Broadcasting Bill

583. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cable Networks Association has represented for early legislation on the Broadcasting Bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the sovereignty and integrity by early enactment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Association requested the Government to enact a broadcasting law or amend the existing Cable law so as to protect the interests of the individual cable operators and prevent the emergence of powerful monopolies in this sector.

(c) This Ministry had convened a meeting on 3.11.98 with representatives of various cable operator associations to discuss various aspects of cable and broadcast law. Requisite steps have been initiated for finalising the provisions of the new Broadcasting Bill.

New AIR Station at Salem

584. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: